and any other Organisation recommended by the State Government are eligible for reimbursement of freight charges on procurement of yarn through National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.

The exports of Handloom Fabrics and made-ups has registered an increase from Rs. 1491.32 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 1758.89 crores in 1996-97.

*[Translation]*

**Decline in Export**

5505. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value and details of the export and import undertaken during 1996-97;

(b) the extent of increase or decline registered in export and import in comparison to the previous year;

(c) the reaction of the Government in regard to the lowest rate of increase in export; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the export target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE(SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) As per the latest information available from DGCI&S, for the year 1996-97 (Provisional), export are valued at US $ 33105.72 million and imports at US $ 38547.81 million. These represent an increase of around 4% and 6% respectively over the corresponding levels in the previous year.

The details of exports and imports by principal commodities & Countries are voluminous and are contained in the monthly publication "Foreign Trade Statistics of India' (Principal Commodities and Countries)" Publihed by DGCI & S, Calcutta and which are also placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Though exports have not declined, the rate of growth of exports during 1996-97 has been relatively lower. This could be attributed to inter alia international market conditions, tariff and non-tariff barriers, infrastructural bottlenecks, cost of export credit etc.

(d) Export promotion is a continuous exercise.This includes simplification of policy and procedures for provoding export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion, consultation with export organisation, trade and industry to tackle general as well as sector specific problems for initiation of appropriate remedial measures from time to time.

*[English]*

**Assistance to Coir Industry**

5506. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have received any proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh for getting assistance for the Coir Industry in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Inclusion of computer floppy under OGL**

5507. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced some computer hardware and software items under O.G.L.;

(b) If so, the details of such items;

(c) whether the computer floppy is still under restricted list; and

(d) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir. Policy for hardware and Software item is same as in the previous year and there is no change.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are no restrictions on the import of floppy disc drive etc., for computers.

(d) Does niot arise.

*[Translation]*

**P.M.R.Y.**

5508. SHRI N.J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the funds allocated for Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana is being diverted to other purposes in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken or propose to be taken by the Govenrnment to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Defaulters in Export Obligation**

5509. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Pioneer dated April 10,1997 under captioned "Export obligation defaulters to be penalised";